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PRESS RELEASE

Photo Release: Baker-Polito Administration Awards Nearly \$900K to Local State Park Projects

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Department of Conservation & Recreation

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BOSTON — Seeking opportunities to improve the Massachusetts State Parks System, the Baker-Polito Administration today announced \$876,021 in funding to twenty nine projects proposed by municipalities, non-profit organizations, and other entities as part of the Fiscal Year 2020 [Partnerships Matching Funds Program](/service-details/partnerships-matching-funds-program) (</service-details/partnerships-matching-funds-program>). The program, which is administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), provides vital matching funds for projects that improve or enhance the Commonwealth’s natural, cultural, and recreational resources contained within state parks.

“The Massachusetts State Parks System provides residents throughout the Commonwealth with opportunities to get outside and experience some of the state’s unique landscapes,” **said Governor Charlie Baker.** “The Partnership Matching Funds Program serves as a great example of our efforts to enhance many of the natural, recreational and cultural resources contained within these parks for all to directly benefit from.”

“Local parks, trails, and key infrastructure not only build strong economies, but also strengthen community connections between the Commonwealth’s regions, cities, and towns,” **said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito**. “Through the FY’20 Partnership Matching Funds Program, we are able to foster important public-private partnerships to support twenty nine worthwhile projects for the public to enjoy.”

Proposed projects within the state parks system are carefully reviewed by agency staff and the DCR Commissioner. Once selected, the agency matches the private investment in the park. All projects are managed by DCR to oversee the implementation of the project with in-depth consultation from contributing partners and other stakeholders.

“We are incredibly grateful for all of the organizations who submitted applications seeking to partner with the state to enhance the Commonwealth’s state parks system,” **said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides**. “Treating aquatic invasive species, enhancing tree canopies, and restoring shorelines are just some of the many projects that will improve the health of our open spaces and enhance our state parks.”

“The Department of Conservation and Recreation is fortunate to have a tremendous amount of support from environmental and recreational organizations, park advocacy groups, and community supporters,” **said DCR Acting Commissioner Jim Montgomery**. “The Baker-Polito Administration is pleased to partner with these entities in an effort that truly benefit the public for years to come.”

DCR matches partner contributions of up to and including \$25,000 at 2:1, and 1:1 for contributions above \$25,000. In thoroughly reviewed circumstances, DCR will consider a

2:1 match for contributions above \$25,000, for example multi-phase projects with the same partner. Partner matches are donated to the Commonwealth's Conservation Trust.

“Our parks and open spaces benefit not only from the focused stewardship of state government, but also the passionate and energized efforts of communities and organization such as friends groups,” **said Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester)**. “These important grants fuel the cost-effective partnerships that have developed between them.”

“Congratulations to the Concerned Citizens Association of Thompson Pond in Spencer for earning this award, and thank you to the Baker-Polito Administration for their continued dedication to protecting our precious natural resources,” **said State Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer)**.

“Congratulations are owed to the Lake Cochituate Watershed Council and the Baker-Polito administration for acting to clean up a great recreational resource in our community,” **said State Representative Carmine Gentile (D-Sudbury)**. “Invasive species are an ongoing concern, which we need to address comprehensively, and this public-private partnership is poised to make great strides in addressing the issue.”

Examples of Fiscal Year 2020's Partnership Matching Funds Program projects include:

- The treatment of aquatic invasive species in various state parks;
- The design and installation of interpretive signage at Halibut Point State Park in the Town of Rockport;

- The implementation of a tree management and care program along the Charles River Esplanade in the City of Boston;
- The assessment of the ruins of a castle in the City of Methuen;
- The continued restoration of historic lamp posts along Revere Beach State Reservation in the City of Revere; and,
- The replacement of a plaque commemorating the military service of a Korean War veteran at Moynihan Park in the City of Boston.

The following projects were awarded DCR Partnerships Matching Funds for FY'20:

Applicant: Blue Hills Observatory and Science Center

Community: The Town of Milton

Amount Awarded: \$8,450

Proposal Summary: This project will enhance the visitor experience at the Blue Hills Observatory and Science Center with updated interpretive displays and new signage.

Applicant: Cambridge Historical Commission

Community: The City of Cambridge

Amount Awarded: \$155,450

Proposal Summary: This is the final year of a multi-year project with the Commission; Phase II includes Magazine Beach shoreline restoration work.

Applicant: Charles River Conservancy

Community: The City of Cambridge

Amount Awarded: \$49,000

Proposal Summary: This is a multi-year initiative with the Conservancy to address invasive species at “Hell’s Half Acre” located within the Charles River Reservation.

Applicant: City of Lynn

Community: The City of Lynn and Town of Saugus

Amount Awarded: \$33,334

Proposal Summary: This project will replace a damaged gazebo along the Saugus River.

Applicant: Concerned Citizens Association of Thompson Pond

Community: The Town of Spencer

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Proposal Summary: The Association is partnering with DCR to treat invasive aquatic species in Thompson Pond, such as the variable milfoil and bladderwort.

Applicant: Converse

Community: The City of Boston

Amount Awarded: \$50,000

Proposal Summary: This project will construct a community skate park within the Southwest Corridor State Park.

Applicant: Esplanade Association

Community: The City of Boston

Amount Awarded: \$50,000

Proposal Summary: In an effort to increase the health of the Esplanade tree canopy, DCR will work with the Esplanade Association to implement a tree care management and succession plan, which will include tree pruning, tree removal as-needed, and tree plantings.

Applicant: Framingham State University

Community: The Town of Ashland

Amount Awarded: \$26,667

Proposal Summary: This project seeks to improve trails within Ashland State Park. Improvements include drainage pipe replacement, pathway regrade, and stormwater runoff treatment.

Applicant: Friends of Great Falls Discovery Center

Community: The Town of Montague

Amount Awarded: \$16,000

Proposal Summary: In an effort to improve the educational value of the center, this project will make repairs and enhancements to the center's displays.

Applicant: Friends of Halibut Point

Community: The Town of Rockport

Amount Awarded: \$50,000

Proposal Summary: This project will design and install interpretive signage throughout Halibut Point State Park.

Applicant: Friends of Herter Park

Community: The City of Boston

Amount Awarded: \$22,088

Proposal Summary: This project will improve the amphitheater in Herter Park located within the Charles River Reservation, including accessibility improvements, utility pole installation, and asphalt installation.

Applicant: Friends of Hood Pond

Community: The Town of Ipswich

Amount Awarded: \$11,666

Proposal Summary: This project is a multi-year initiative with the Friends of Hood Pond to treat aquatic invasive species within Hood Pond located in Willowdale State Forest.

Applicant: Friends of Lake Quinsigamond

Community: The City of Worcester

Amount Awarded: \$23,567

Proposal Summary: Funding will go towards a feasibility study to repair and restore the Finish Tower at Regatta Point within Lake Quinsigamond State Park.

Applicant: Friends of Scusset Beach

Community: The Town of Sandwich

Amount Awarded: \$10,000

Proposal Summary: This project will improve the Scusset Beach State Reservation headquarters and campground by installing a water fountain, and bike repair station. If funding permits, DCR will also install a canvas to the Nature Station for visitor protection when attending interpretive programming during inclement weather.

Applicant: Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands

Community: The Town of Hull

Amount Awarded: \$4,000

Proposal Summary: Funding will go towards the design and installation of two interpretative panels at Lovells Island for the historic oil house.

Applicant: Friends of the Paragon Carousel

Community: The Town of Hull

Amount Awarded: \$36,668

Proposal Summary: This project seeks to make the first floor bathrooms at the Nantasket Beach Clock Tower ADA compliant.

Applicant: Lake Cochituate Watershed Council

Community: The City of Framingham and the Towns of Natick and Wayland

Amount Awarded: \$12,000

Proposal Summary: This project will treat invasive aquatic species including milfoil and water chestnut using non-toxic methods, such as hand-pulling and benthic matting.

Applicant: Private Individual

Community: Town of Becket

Amount Awarded: \$26,666

Proposal Summary: Funding for this multi-year project will support the mechanical harvesting and removal of invasive aquatic plants in Buckley Dunton Reservoir.

Applicant: Private Individual

Community: The Town of Shutesbury

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Proposal Summary: This project will restore the slate roofing system at Lake Wyola Farmhouse at Lake Wyola State Park.

Applicant: Magazine Beach Partners

Community: The City of Cambridge

Amount Awarded: \$33,200

Proposal Summary: Funds will go towards the design and production of six interpretive sign displays at Magazine Beach.

Applicant: Maudslay State Park Association

Community: The City of Newburyport

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Proposal Summary: This funding is part of a multi-year project to restore the retaining wall at Maudslay State Park. Phase I will focus on the design of the proposed new retaining wall.

Applicant: Methuen Historical Society

Community: The City of Methuen

Amount Awarded: \$10,000

Proposal Summary: Funding for this project will go towards phase I of a multi-year project to stabilize the Chateau at Greycourt State Park and develop a comprehensive plan for full restoration.

Applicant: Moynihan Park Rededication

Community: The City of Boston

Amount Awarded: \$6,530

Proposal Summary: This project seeks to replace the bronze plaque at Moynihan Park in Hyde Park commemorating the military service of John T. Moynihan, a soldier killed in the line of duty during the Korean War.

Applicant: Quincy Homestead

Community: The City of Quincy

Amount Awarded: \$50,000

Proposal Summary: In the second year of a two year project, funding will aid in the structural assessment of the historical Quincy Homestead, a building on the National Register of Historic Places.

Applicant: Revere Beautification Committee

Community: The City of Revere

Amount Awarded: \$7,400

Proposal Summary: Funding for a second year in a row will aid in the continuation of the restoration of historic lamp posts along Revere Beach State Reservation, America's first public beach.

Applicant: Rock Pond Association

Community: The Town of Georgetown

Amount Awarded: \$13,334

Proposal Summary: In an effort to maximize the success of recent invasive treatment, this project will continue the treatment on aquatic invasive species within Rock Pond.

Applicant: Save the Cove

Community: The City of Newton

Amount Awarded: \$10,000

Proposal Summary: Funding for this project will support the ongoing effort to treat invasive aquatic species located within Ware's Cove along the Charles River.

Applicant: Sullivan's Castle Island

Community: The City of Boston

Amount Awarded: \$50,000

Proposal Summary: Funding will support the purchase of equipment to keep Castle Island accessible in inclement weather.

Applicant: The Town of Pepperell

Community: The Town of Pepperell

Amount Awarded: \$50,000

Proposal Summary: Funding will support year three of a five-year project with the municipality to treat invasive aquatic species located in the Nashua River.

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Department of Conservation & Recreation

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DCR manages state parks and oversees more than 450,000 acres throughout Massachusetts. It protects, promotes, and enhances the state's natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

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